

Monday, July 13, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

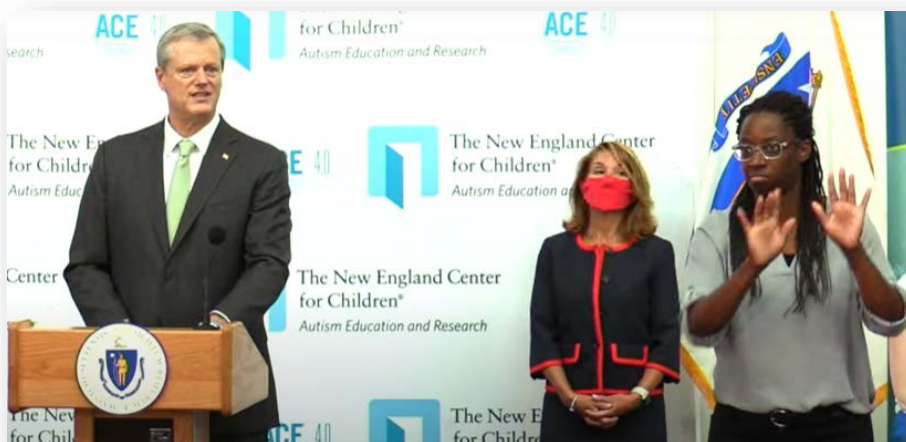
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

Note: The Command Center Situation Report will be published on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday Schedule.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- COVID-19 Funding for Special Education Programs
- New Workplace Safety Compliance Website Launched
- Hurricane Preparedness and COVID-19
- Public Health Data: Daily Dashboard Indicators
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Situation Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Stop the Spread](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [MBTA.com/covid19](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)
- [Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](#)

Background on the Command Center

The COVID Command Center, under the leadership of Secretary Marylou Sudders and reporting to Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts **current as of 7/13**

105,783 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

8,115 Deaths among confirmed cases

960,099 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 7/13**

Case numbers are updated regularly at noon. Saturday/Sunday reports are preliminary and have not been confirmed with state/territorial health departments.

Total Cases Reported to CDC:

3,296,599 Total Cases

134,884 Deaths

55 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, and US V.I.)

Social Distancing Basics:

- ✓ Stay Home
- ✓ Call/Facetime/online chat with friends and loved ones.

If you go out for essential needs:

- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug
- ✓ Wear a face covering or mask if physical distancing is not possible.

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State Actions

Today, Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders joined Vinnie Strully, President and CEO of The New England Center for Children in Southborough to tour the facility, and announce new relief funding for special education residential schools. ([See video here](#)).

Testing Update:

Today, more than **8,500** new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with **154** newly reported confirmed positive cases. More than **1,225,000** molecular tests have been conducted to date. The average positive test rate remains **1.7%** which represents a **94%** reduction in positive cases since mid-April.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

As of today, **570** people are hospitalized, with **89** reported to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). A full report on today's daily Dashboard Indicators begins on page 3.

COVID-19 Funding for Special Education Programs ([News Release](#))

The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$16.1 million in relief for 32 special education residential school providers to support costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, special education residential schools remained open to support their students with unique challenges. Schools incurred unanticipated costs related to the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), infection control measures, increased staffing costs and enhanced cleaning protocols.

The funding announced today is in addition to \$3 million in funding the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) provided in April to support the residential education school system. Together, this \$19 million acknowledges the efforts of these schools to remain open on a 24/7 basis throughout the pandemic and the measures they implemented to keep their doors open and their youth and staff safe.



Earlier in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services implemented \$139 million in increased funding through its existing system for residential and congregate care services providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were used for increased staffing, enhanced infection control procedures and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Due to the structure of the special education residential schools, they were not eligible for this earlier rate increase, but today's announcement will bring them in line with the previous rate increases provided to other residential and congregate care providers. To support Special Education programs, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has released [Comprehensive Special Education Guidance for the 2020-21 School Year](#). The Initial Fall Reopening Guidance asks schools and districts to prioritize and begin planning for in-person instruction, while simultaneously preparing blueprints for both remote learning and a hybrid school model (a combination of in-person and remote learning), should local conditions change this school year. This

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document complements the Initial Fall Reopening Guidance by providing further information on supporting students with disabilities during the upcoming school year. It also provides necessary information in support of schools and districts, as they develop the portion of their reopening plans specifically related to special education.

Earlier, DESE released its extended school year guidance to allow for special education day programs to open last week. Find the total relief funding by provider [here](#).

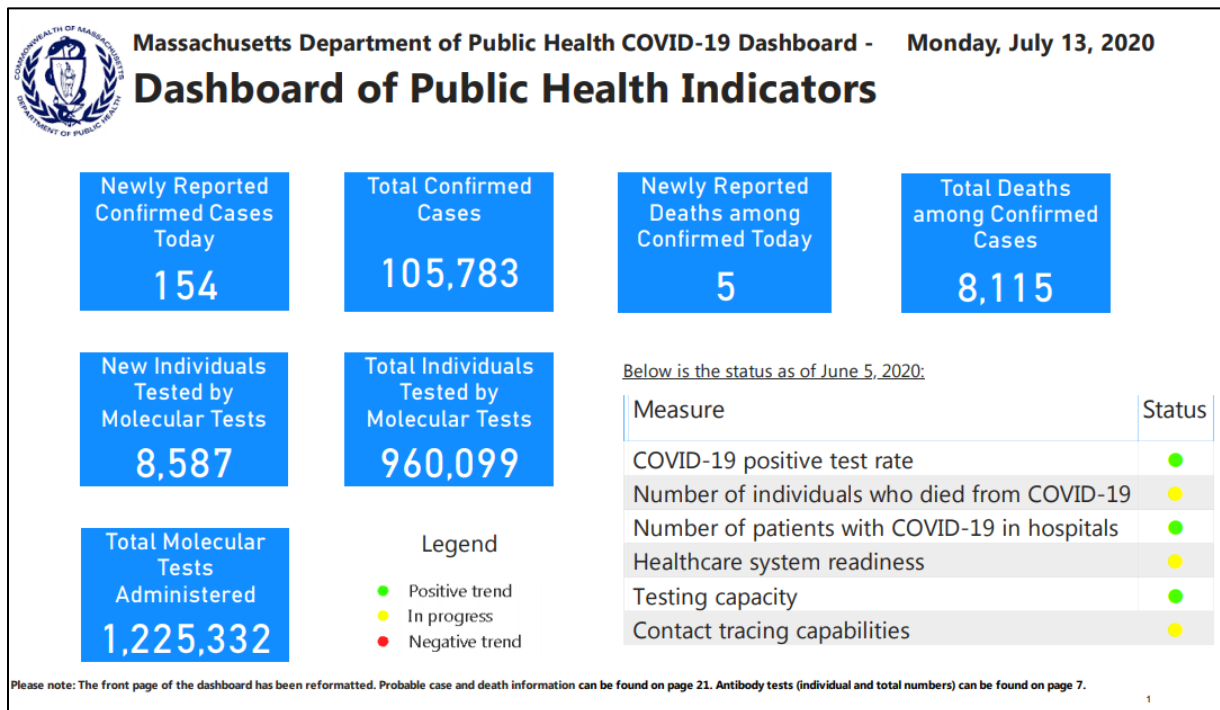
New Workplace Safety Compliance Website Launched

The Baker-Polito Administration announced [a new website today](#) with information for the public to report businesses or workplaces that they believe are not complying with mandatory health and safety guidelines. Guidance issued for reopening activities are designed to keep customers and employees safe. While the Governor praised the thousands of businesses and organizations adhering to reopening guidance, he said the Commonwealth wanted to provide a mechanism for the public or employees to share their concerns. The website provides several options for residents, including:

- Reporting issues to Local Public Health Officials
- Filing a report with the Department of Labor Standard hotline by calling (508) 616-0461, ext. 9488
- Emailing reports to safepublicworkplace@mass.gov
- Calling 2-1-1 to report concerns

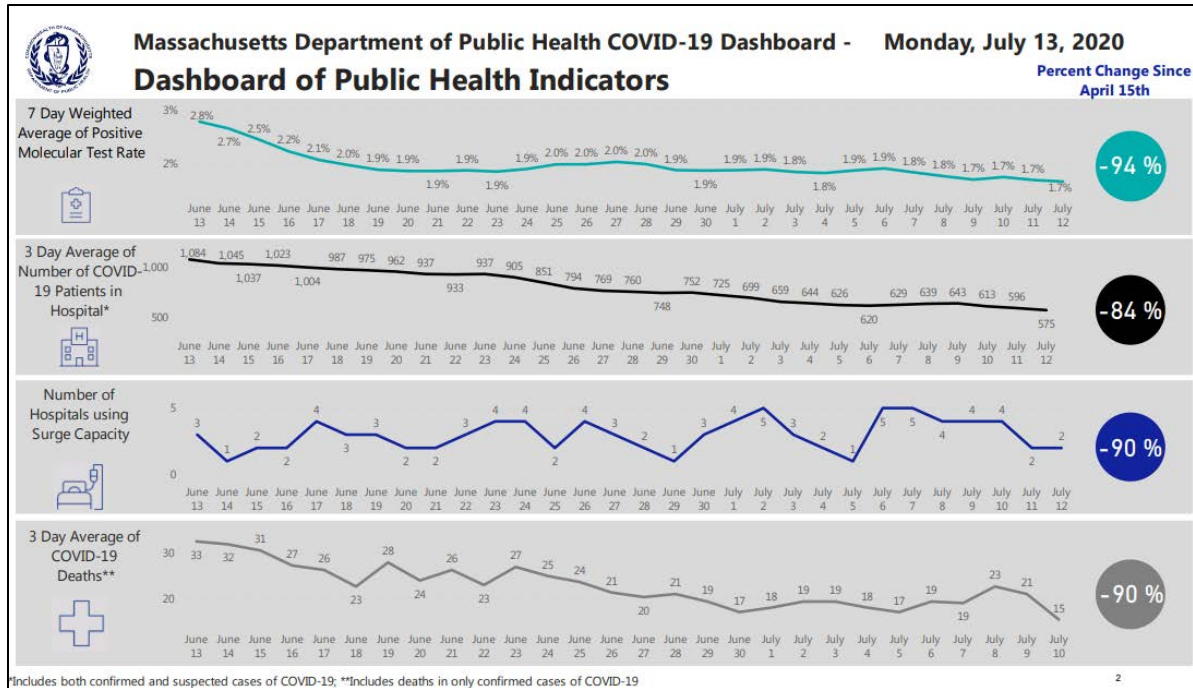
COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the July 13th Daily Dashboard is provided below:



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Important Updates

Hurricane Preparedness and COVID-19

Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed July 12 - 18, 2020, to be [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) in an effort to emphasize both the Commonwealth's potential vulnerability to tropical storms and hurricanes, and the importance of preparing for their impact, including taking necessary precautions during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use this week to prepare for hurricanes, tropical storms and other emergencies.

How Residents Can Prepare

- **Make an Emergency Plan** – Have an emergency plan of how your family would communicate, evacuate, and shelter in place that addresses the needs of all of your family members, including seniors, children, individuals with access and functional needs, and pets.
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>

Extra steps to prepare for hurricane season during COVID-19

Include face coverings, disinfectants & hand sanitizer in emergency kits

Sheltering at a hotel or relative's house may be safer than a large shelter, especially if you are in a high risk population

Visit [mass.gov/mema](https://www.mass.gov/mema) for more hurricane preparedness resources about hurricane evacuation zones, emergency plans, emergency kits, and staying informed
Source: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

Mass.gov

During the COVID-19 pandemic, your plan to evacuate should include where you might evacuate to (relatives' home, hotel, etc.) given your circumstances. If you are in a high-risk population, the safest option may be to evacuate to a location without the general public such as a hotel, relatives' home or other destination.

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- **Build an Emergency Kit** - Build or customize an emergency kit that will sustain your household for three to five days without power. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>.
 - o During the COVID-19 pandemic, include face coverings or masks, disinfectants, hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies that you may need in an emergency.
- **Stay Informed** - Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, social and traditional news media, 2-1-1 hotline and local notification systems: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>
- **Know Your Evacuation Zone** - Learn if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone: www.mass.gov/knowyourzone

For more information, visit the Hurricane Safety Tips section of MEMA's website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/hurricane-safety-tips>.

Commonwealth Hurricane Season Preparedness Activities in a COVID-19 Environment

MEMA and the Department of Public Health have developed guidance for the Commonwealth and municipalities for providing operating shelters and conducting evacuations during COVID-19. This guidance will be provided to municipalities to inform their planning and preparedness for hurricane season and will be used to adjust the Commonwealth's mass care and evacuation plans to help keep individuals both safe and healthy during a disaster.

Working in partnership with the Emergency Support Function Team and with local partners, some of the steps MEMA is taking to prepare for the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19 include re-evaluating capacities of state-initiated regional shelter sites; preparing for the need for additional evacuation transportation vehicles; adding screening, sanitization, disinfection, and general public health protocols to existing mass care plans; and planning for and preparing to provide sheltering in non-congregate settings such as hotels.

Update on Mobile Testing Numbers for Long Term Care, Assisted Living Residences and EOHHS Sites

Note: The Family Resource Line is available Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Onsite Testing: Long Term Care

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Unique Facilities Visited
Total (as of 6/15)	57,058	493

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 7/13)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,686
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,277

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 7/13 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,513
Staff	17,952
Total Tests	29,465
Number of Locations	2,014



**NURSING HOME
FAMILY RESOURCE LINE
617-660-5399**

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- Last week, there were a total of 77 outdoor visits, and have been nearly 400 to date since resuming visitation.
- Soldiers' Home Staff are being retested for COVID-19 on Monday and Tuesday of this week as part of an every-other-week retesting plan.
- In June, the Baker-Polito Administration released the independent report ordered by Governor Baker to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers' Home, and announced a series of reforms to strengthen its governance and oversight of the Home, improving staffing processes, providing quality care for our Veterans, and planning for significant capital improvements.
- The Soldiers' Home leadership is committed to ensuring the safety of the Veteran residents and restoring the Home to its rightful place that treats them with dignity, honor and respect. The Soldiers' Home leadership is moving into the Transition & Rebuilding Phase that is focused on rebuilding staff leadership and team and positioning the facility to move forward safely.
- Phase 1 of the refresh project, which involved updating the interiors of the 3rd floor units for enhanced infection control, is nearing completion this month.
- All veteran residents of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered, following full-house retesting. Residents are actively continuing their recovery, and the health status of veterans has seen marked improvement.
 - o If there is any sign of COVID-like symptoms, residents are retested.
- The Soldiers' Home has resumed additional religious services to residents, streaming mass over CCTV, and has opened up the chapel for residents to visit one at a time for infection control. In nice weather, services are offered outside with social distancing.
 - o Catholic Mass resumed on Saturday, July 11 under the Home's pavilion, limited to 10 residents, weather permitting.
- The Home is continuing recreational activities for Veterans, respecting social distancing, and veterans continue to go outside with nursing and recreation staff.
- Outdoor visitation with veterans' families and loved ones is being offered, with 20 slots available each day, Tuesday through Saturday. Families and loved ones are able to schedule visits with veterans in advance using the Family Line.
 - o The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#), and is using outdoor visitation protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. This plan will be contingent on the continued stability of infection controls and public health metrics, which we continue to monitor daily and coordinate with state and local health officials.
 - o Outdoor visitation is occurring alongside continued video visits, and the Family Hotline is available for ad hoc updates with support from social work and clinical staff. Families can call the Family Hotline at 413-552-4764 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Families can also request updates via email at CommunicationsMailbox-HLY@Mass.gov. Please note the Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file. If a family member requests an update and is **not** the health care proxy, the name of the health care proxy will be shared and it will be suggested that the health care proxy should call and request the update.
- Holyoke's Clinical Command continues to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, monitoring staffing levels, while bringing on additional management staff for nursing, facilities, and administration. The Holyoke Soldiers' Home has been intently focused on following infection control procedures and maintaining best practices for the safety of veteran residents and staff, and to support the recovery of veterans as the health status of many stabilizes. All veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is

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being conducted for veterans both on- and off-site as clinically appropriate.

- **The current status as of July 13 is as follows:**
 - o The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 63 veterans are negative
 - 82 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 1 veteran has a pending test result
 - 1 veteran has refused testing
 - o Resident locations:
 - 120 veterans are onsite
 - 27 veterans are offsite
 - 26 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 1 veteran are receiving acute care offsite
 - o Since March 1, there have been 99 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 19 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 3 veterans were clinically recovered)
 - o Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to welcome visitors for outdoor visitation between veterans and loved ones, and there have been nearly 150 visits to date.
 - o Following visitation guidance, the Home has protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. Ongoing plans are contingent on the continued stability of infection controls and public health metrics, which we continue to monitor daily and coordinate with state and local health officials.
 - o Outdoor visitation is occurring in addition to continued video visits between veteran residents and their loved ones. Families can also request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at CSH@mass.gov and through phone and video conversations. Medical information can only be shared with an authorized health care proxy.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 43 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.
- The Home has eased restrictions for Dorm residents beginning last week. Dorm residents may order food delivery from area restaurants, drive in their personal vehicles off-site to medical appointments, and the curfew has been extended, and is now from 11pm - 5am.
- The Incident Command team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to monitor and enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as source PPE to ensure that residents and staff have access to critical safety equipment. The team continues to coordinate closely with the VA Health Care System.
- **The current status as of July 13 is as follows:**
 - o Residents
 - 0 veteran resident is positive
 - 152 veteran residents have tested negative

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- 43 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
- 43 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 11 tested negative, 1 clinically recovered)
- o Employees:
 - Employees have been retested, and 6 total are positive
 - 56 employees have been determined clinically recovered

Resources

Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center

In order to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross has developed a Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC), staffed by a team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, emotional and spiritual support, and access to available resources
- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Assisting families with access to national, state or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services, or veterans' assistance
- Additional state- and local-specific resources are available.

People can visit: <https://www.redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center/ma-family-assistance-center.html>

to access this resource with special virtual programs, information, referrals and services to support families in need. People without internet access can **call toll-free 833-492-0094** for help. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

Disaster Recovery Information

On March 27, the President [declared](#) a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through this declaration, federal aid will be made available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits in all Massachusetts counties to help pay for emergency protective measures (response costs) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MEMA's Recovery Unit has developed a [webpage](#) with information and guidance on, but not limited to, disaster declaration, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

COVID-19 Public Resources Map

MEMA, together with MA VOAD and other partners, has developed a [COVID-19 Public Resources Map](#) showing the location of resources available to the public, such as food banks, houses of worship, and Project Bread site locations. Please note that this map is not inclusive of all resources and is only as accurate as the information that has been provided to MEMA.

Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Dashboard

MEMA has developed and maintains a public-facing COVID-19 ArcGIS Online dashboard, available [here](#). This dashboard is continuously updated and captures information about current COVID 19 case counts, cases by age,

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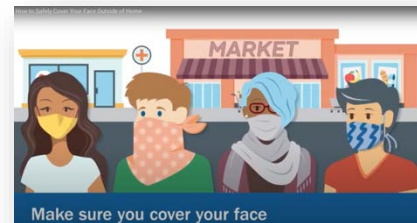
cases by county, hospital status, hospital bed status, death tolls, and deaths by age. Users should refresh the dashboard on a daily basis as enhancements are continuously being added.

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777** to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text **COVIDMAESP** to **888-777**
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.

Please share our Communications Resources

NEW: The DPH video “*How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home*” is now available in Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Haitian Creole and Vietnamese. Please share! ([Find The Videos Here](#))



Infographics

- [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
- Social distancing: for [youth](#) for [general audience](#)
- [Coping](#) with stress or fear
- What to do [if you are sick](#)
- 10 tips for at-home [quarantine or self-monitoring](#)

Short videos:

Overview of COVID-19 Testing	Importance of COVID-19 Testing	How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home
• English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Haitian Creole • Vietnamese

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- [10 Tips for at home quarantine or self-monitoring](#)
- [Stop the Spread of Germs like Seasonal Flu and COVID-19 \(:30\)](#)
- [Help Prevent COVID-19 with Social Distancing \(:30\)](#)
- [How Young People Can Help Prevent COVID-19 with Social Distancing \(:30\)](#)
- [Coping with Stress and Fear from COVID-19 \(:30\)](#)
- [Stay Home - Save Lives \(:06\)](#)

Spanish Radio Spots (available on request):

- Prevent the Spread of Germs
- Social Distancing
- Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.

How to Help Out

- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: [Please click here.](#)
- Get involved with the new Community Tracing Collaborative: [Please click here.](#)
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here.](#)
- Apply for Jobs at COVID-19 Temporary Care Sites ([Details Here](#)).

The Need for Blood Donations Continues, and Recovered COVID-19 Donors Can Help Save Lives

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening condition. Interested individuals can visit [RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more, and if eligible, sign up to help. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. To make an appointment to donate, please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org